

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 18-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 18-21 are amended.

Claims 1-12 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over DeLorme et al. (DeLorme), U.S. Patent No. 5,948,040, in view of Lynch et al. (Lynch), U.S. Patent No. 6,018,715. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated on page 3 of the Office Action, DeLorme fails to disclose a travel information providing center that prepares travel information based on the information input by the registered member and purchase records of the registered member that is stored in the memory prior to receiving the member ID upon confirmation that the member is registered, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 18, 19 and 21. By this amendment, claims 1, 18, 19 and 21 have been amended to further clarify that travel information is prepared in order to display a route from a starting point to a destination.

Lynch fails to overcome the deficiencies of Delorme because Lynch also fails to prepares travel information in order to display a route from a starting point to a destination based on the information input by the registered member and purchase records of the registered member.

Lynch discloses a traveler portfolio 18 that contains information that is used to determine an individual customer's preferred travel plan in response to an itinerary submitted by that individual. In other words, Lynch uses information preferred by each individual (col. 3, lines 39-48). Lynch, like DeLorme, thus uses individual profiles based on information (i.e., preferences) input by the retail consumer. Lynch fails to provide any disclosure with regard to also using purchase records of retail consumers (registered members) in order to set an individual profile. Lynch thus also fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1, 18, 19 and 21.

Furthermore, Lynch is attempting to create a travel plan and fails to provide any disclosure with regard to creating a route. Lynch thus fails to provide any disclosure with regard to creating a route or preparing travel information in order to display a route from a starting point to a destination as recited in claims 1, 18, 19 and 21. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in that art to use a parameter associated with Lynch in order to create a route as recited in claims 1, 18, 19 and 21.

DeLorme and Lynch also fail to disclose or suggest a travel information providing center with a controller that provides information on locations of information providing terminals which are installed adjacent to a selected route that is to be traveled and which are stored in the memory, as recited in claim 11 and as similarly recited in claim 20.

DeLorme provides an explanation as to various information providing terminals that can be used (col. 14, line 43 - col. 15, line 32). However, DeLorme fails to provide any disclosure with regard to storing information on the locations of the various information providing terminals or providing information on locations of information providing terminals. Accordingly, DeLorme fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 11 and 20.

Page 4 of the Office Action takes Official Notice that one skilled in the art would store information of where kiosks are installed or inherently have this information since the kiosk terminals are connected with the central server. Page 5 of the Office Action then asserts that it would have been obvious to provide this information in a travel information providing system. Applicant respectfully disagrees with how the Official Notice is being used to suggest the features of claims 11 and 20.

Applicant notes that information regarding the location of a kiosk is typically not electronically stored. Furthermore, even if this information is electronically stored, this information is stored separately and is only available to a retailer. This information is not available to a user terminal and is not associated with a controller that provides a selected

route that is to be traveled, as recited in claim 11 and as similarly recited in claim 20.

Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to use the information as suggested in the Office Action and apply it as recited in claims 11 and 20 in order to achieve the advantages in Applicant's specification.

Page 5 of the Office Action asserts that the noted features recited in claim 11 are non-functional descriptive data. This is not correct because nowhere in MPEP 2106 IV.B.1(a), (b) or the Interim Guidelines is it suggested that the noted features recited in claim 11 are non-functional descriptive data. In fact, the Interim Guidelines assert that the noted features recited in claim 11 should be considered and addressed.

The question is whether there exists any new and unobvious functional relationship between the center and the system. In claim 11, the information on locations is closely and functionally related to the center and the system because the information on locations provided by the controller is not about all locations stored in the memory. The center and the system each select a location based on whether the information providing terminal is adjacent to the route that is included in the travel information provided by the controller. Therefore, the noted features recited in claim 11 cannot be non-functional descriptive data.

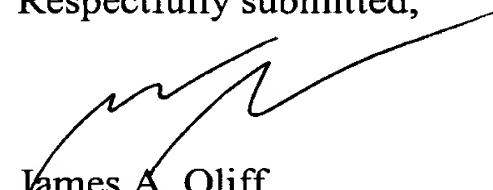
Lynch fails to overcome the deficiencies of DeLorme as applied to claims 11 and 20.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: October 23, 2006

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